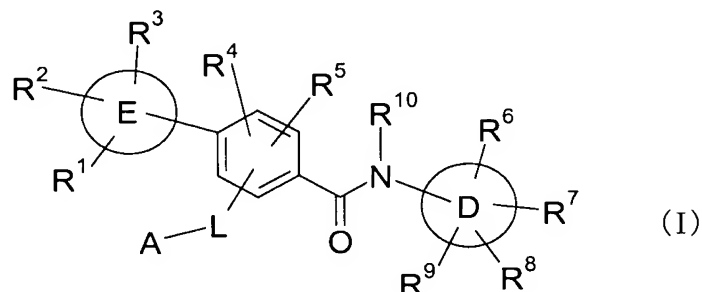


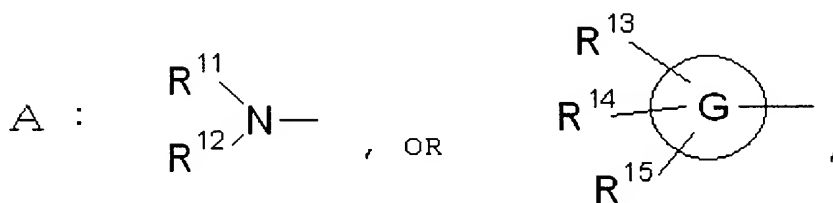
IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Previously Presented): A benzamide derivative represented by formula (I):



wherein the symbols have the following meanings:



L: a lower alkylene;

D ring: a bicyclic heteroaromatic ring selected from the group consisting of quinoline, dihydroquinoline, and tetrahydroquinoline;

E ring: a monocyclic or bicyclic hydrocarbon ring, or a 5- to 12-membered monocyclic or bicyclic heteroaromatic ring containing 1 to 4 atoms selected from the group consisting of N, S, and O;

G ring: a 4- to 12-membered monocyclic or bicyclic heterocycle containing 1 to 4 atoms selected from the group consisting of N, S, and O;

R<sup>1</sup> to R<sup>9</sup>: the same or different, a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a lower alkyl, a halogen-substituted lower alkyl, -OH, -SH, -O-lower alkyl, -O-lower alkyl-NH-lower alkyl, -O-lower alkyl-N(lower alkyl)<sub>2</sub>, =O, -NH<sub>2</sub>, -NH-lower alkyl, -N(lower alkyl)<sub>2</sub>, -S-lower alkyl, -SO-lower alkyl, -SO<sub>2</sub>-lower alkyl, -CN, -COOH, -C(=O)-O-lower alkyl,

$-\text{C}(=\text{O})-\text{NH}_2$ ,  $-\text{C}(=\text{O})-\text{NH}$ -lower alkyl,  $-\text{C}(=\text{O})-\text{N}(\text{lower alkyl})_2$ ,  $-\text{NH}-\text{C}(=\text{O})-\text{O}$ -lower alkyl,  $-\text{NH}-\text{SO}_2$ -lower alkyl,  $-\text{SO}_2-\text{NH}_2$ ,  $-\text{SO}_2-\text{NH}$ -lower alkyl,  $-\text{C}(=\text{O})$ -lower alkyl,  $-\text{NO}_2$  or a nitrogen-containing saturated heterocycle;

$\text{R}^{10}$ : a hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl;

$\text{R}^{11}$  to  $\text{R}^{15}$ : the same or different, a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a lower alkyl, a halogen-substituted lower alkyl,  $-\text{OH}$ ,  $-\text{O}$ -lower alkyl,  $-\text{S}$ -lower alkyl,  $-\text{SO}$ -lower alkyl,  $-\text{SO}_2$ -lower alkyl,  $=\text{O}$ ,  $-\text{C}(=\text{O})\text{H}$ ,  $-\text{C}(=\text{O})$ -lower alkyl,  $-\text{COOH}$ ,  $-\text{CN}$ ,  $-\text{NH}_2$ ,  $-\text{NH}$ -lower alkyl,  $-\text{N}(\text{lower alkyl})_2$ ,  $-\text{C}(=\text{O})-\text{NH}_2$ ,  $-\text{C}(=\text{O})-\text{NH}$ -lower alkyl,  $-\text{C}(=\text{O})-\text{N}(\text{lower alkyl})_2$ ,  $-\text{C}(=\text{O})$ -aryl,  $-\text{C}(=\text{O})-\text{NH}$ -aryl,  $-\text{NH}-\text{C}(=\text{O})$ -lower alkyl,  $-\text{NH}-\text{C}(=\text{O})$ -aryl,  $-\text{NH}-\text{SO}_2$ -lower alkyl,  $-\text{N}(\text{lower alkyl})-\text{SO}_2$ -lower alkyl,  $-\text{lower alkylene}-\text{NH}-\text{SO}_2$ -lower alkyl,  $-\text{lower alkylene}-\text{NH}-\text{SO}_2$ -aryl,  $-\text{C}(=\text{O})-\text{O}$ -lower alkyl,  $-\text{lower alkylene}-\text{OH}$ ,  $-\text{lower alkylene}-\text{C}(=\text{O})-\text{NH}$ -lower alkyl,  $-\text{lower alkylene}-\text{C}(=\text{O})-\text{N}(\text{lower alkyl})_2$ ,  $-\text{lower alkylene}-\text{C}(=\text{O})-\text{NH}_2$ ,  $-\text{lower alkylene}-\text{C}(=\text{O})-\text{OH}$ ,  $-\text{lower alkylene}-\text{O}$ -lower alkyl,  $-\text{lower alkylene}-\text{S}$ -lower alkyl,  $-\text{lower alkylene}-\text{O}-\text{C}(=\text{O})$ -lower alkyl,  $-\text{lower alkylene}-\text{NH}$ -lower alkyl,  $-\text{lower alkylene}-\text{N}(\text{lower alkyl})_2$ ,  $-\text{lower alkylene}-\text{aryl}$ , a cycloalkyl, an aryl,

$-(4\text{- to }12\text{-membered monocyclic or bicyclic heterocycle containing }1\text{ to }4\text{ atoms selected from the group consisting of N, S, and O}),$

$-\text{O}-(4\text{- to }12\text{-membered monocyclic or bicyclic heterocycle containing }1\text{ to }4\text{ atoms selected from the group consisting of N, S, and O}),$

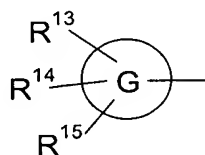
$-\text{lower alkylene}-(4\text{- to }12\text{-membered monocyclic or bicyclic heterocycle containing }1\text{ to }4\text{ atoms selected from the group consisting of N, S, and O}),$

$-\text{C}(=\text{O})-(4\text{- to }12\text{-membered monocyclic or bicyclic heterocycle containing }1\text{ to }4\text{ atoms selected from the group consisting of N, S, and O}),$

–lower alkylene–N(lower alkyl)–(4- to 12-membered monocyclic or bicyclic heterocycle containing 1 to 4 atoms selected from the group consisting of N, S, and O), or  
–C(=O)–NH–(4- to 12-membered monocyclic or bicyclic heterocycle containing 1 to 4 atoms selected from the group consisting of N, S, and O),  
and the above monocyclic or bicyclic heterocycle may be substituted by halogen atom(s), lower alkyl(s), –O–lower alkyl, or –OH;  
or a salt thereof.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The compound according to claim 1 or a salt thereof, wherein the E ring in formula (I) is a benzene or thiophene ring.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The compound according to claim 2 or a salt thereof, wherein the A ring in formula (I) is:



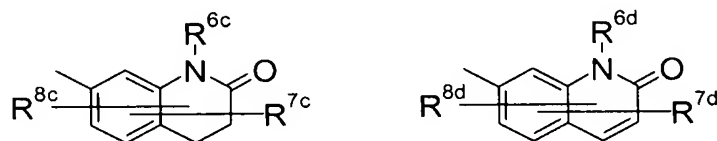
wherein the G ring and R<sup>13</sup> to R<sup>15</sup> have the same meanings as in formula (I).

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The compound according to claim 3 or a salt thereof, wherein the G ring is a nitrogen-containing saturated heterocycle wherein a ring nitrogen atom is bonded to L.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The compound according to claim 4 or a salt thereof, wherein the G ring is selected from the group consisting of morpholine, piperidine, and pyrrolidine, wherein a ring nitrogen atom of the ring group is bonded to L.

Claims 6-7 (Canceled)

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The compound according to claim 3 or a salt thereof, wherein the D ring, together with the groups represented by  $R^6$  to  $R^9$  to be bonded thereto, form a group represented by the following formulae:

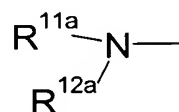


wherein the symbols have the following meanings:

$R^{6c}$  and  $R^{6d}$ : the same or different, a hydrogen atom, a lower alkyl, or a halogen-substituted lower alkyl, and

$R^{7c}$ ,  $R^{8c}$ ,  $R^{7d}$ , and  $R^{8d}$ : the same or different, a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a lower alkyl, or a halogen-substituted lower alkyl.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The compound according to claim 2 or a salt thereof, wherein the A ring is represented by:



wherein the symbols have the following meanings:

$R^{11a}$  and  $R^{12a}$ : the same or different, a hydrogen atom, a lower alkyl, a halogen-substituted lower alkyl,  $-O$ -lower alkyl,  $-SO_2$ -lower alkyl,  $-C(=O)H$ ,  $-C(=O)$ -lower alkyl,  $-CN$ ,  $-NH_2$ ,  $-NH$ -lower alkyl,  $-N$ (lower alkyl) $_2$ ,  $-C(=O)-NH_2$ ,  $-C(=O)-NH$ -lower alkyl,  $-C(=O)-N$ (lower alkyl) $_2$ ,  $-C(=O)$ -aryl,  $-C(=O)-NH$ -aryl,  $-NH-C(=O)$ -lower alkyl,  $-NH-C(=O)$ -aryl,  $-NH-SO_2$ -lower alkyl,  $-N$ (lower alkyl)- $SO_2$ -lower alkyl, -lower

alkylene-NH-SO<sub>2</sub>-lower alkyl, -lower alkylene-NH-SO<sub>2</sub>-aryl, -C(=O)-O-lower alkyl, -lower alkylene-OH, -lower alkylene-C(=O)-NH-lower alkyl, -lower alkylene-C(=O)-N(lower alkyl)<sub>2</sub>, -lower alkylene-C(=O)-NH<sub>2</sub>, -lower alkylene-C(=O)-OH, -lower alkylene-O-lower alkyl, -lower alkylene-S-lower alkyl, -lower alkylene-O-C(=O)-lower alkyl, -lower alkylene-NH-lower alkyl, -lower alkylene-N(lower alkyl)<sub>2</sub>, -lower alkylene-aryl, a cycloalkyl, an aryl,

- (4- to 12-membered monocyclic or bicyclic heterocycle containing 1 to 4 atoms selected from the group consisting of N, S, and O),

- O-(4- to 12-membered monocyclic or bicyclic heterocycle containing 1 to 4 atoms selected from the group consisting of N, S, and O),

- lower alkylene-(4- to 12-membered monocyclic or bicyclic heterocycle containing 1 to 4 atoms selected from the group consisting of N, S, and O),

- C(=O)-(4- to 12-membered monocyclic or bicyclic heterocycle containing 1 to 4 atoms selected from the group consisting of N, S, and O),

- lower alkylene-N(lower alkyl)-(4- to 12-membered monocyclic or bicyclic heterocycle containing 1 to 4 atoms selected from the group consisting of N, S, and O), or

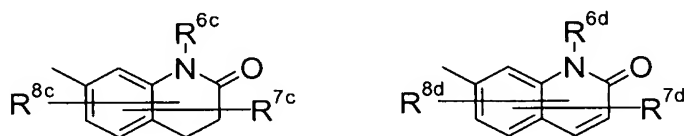
- C(=O)-NH-(4- to 12-membered monocyclic or bicyclic heterocycle containing 1 to 4 atoms selected from the group consisting of N, S, and O), and

the above monocyclic or bicyclic heterocycle may be substituted by a halogen atom, a lower alkyl, -O-lower alkyl, or -OH.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The compound according to claim 9 or a salt thereof, wherein  $R^{11a}$  is a lower alkyl and  $R^{12a}$  is a group selected from the group consisting of -lower alkylene-O-lower alkyl, -lower alkylene-S-lower alkyl, -lower alkylene-NH-lower alkyl, -lower alkylene-N(lower alkyl)<sub>2</sub>, -lower alkylene-OH, -lower alkylene-C(=O)-NH-lower alkyl, -lower alkylene-C(=O)-N(lower alkyl)<sub>2</sub>, -lower alkylene-aryl, a cycloalkyl, an aryl, -(monocyclic or bicyclic heterocycle), and -lower alkylene-(monocyclic or bicyclic heterocycle).

Claims 11-12 (Canceled):

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The compound according to claim 9 or a salt thereof, wherein the D ring, together with the groups represented by  $R^6$  to  $R^9$  to be bonded thereto, form a group represented by the following formulae:



wherein the symbols have the following meanings:

$R^{6c}$  and  $R^{6d}$ : the same or different, a hydrogen atom, a lower alkyl, or a halogen-substituted lower alkyl, and

$R^{7c}$ ,  $R^{8c}$ ,  $R^{7d}$ , and  $R^{8d}$ : the same or different, a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a lower alkyl, or a halogen-substituted lower alkyl.

Claim 14 (Canceled):

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): A pharmaceutical composition comprising a benzamide derivative represented by formula (I) according to claim 1 or a salt thereof and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Claims 16-18 (Canceled):

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): A method for treating pain, which comprises administering a therapeutically effective amount of a benzamide derivative represented by formula (I) according to claim 1 or a salt thereof, to a patient in need thereof.

Claim 20 (Canceled):

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): The compound according to claim 1 or a salt thereof, wherein the benzamide derivative represented by formula (I) is 2-[(2,5-dimethylpyrrolidin-1-yl)methyl]-N-(1-methyl-2-oxo-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinolin-7-yl)biphenyl-4-carboxamide.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): The compound according to claim 1 or a salt thereof, wherein the benzamide derivative represented by formula (I) is N-(1-methyl-2-oxo-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinolin-7-yl)-2-[(2-methylpyrrolidin-1-yl)methyl]biphenyl-4-carboxamide.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): The compound according to claim 1 or a salt thereof, wherein the benzamide derivative represented by formula (I) is 2-{{ethyl(tetrahydro-2*H*-pyran-4-yl)amino]methyl}-*N*-(1-methyl-2-oxo-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinolin-7-yl)biphenyl-4-carboxamide.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): The compound according to claim 1 or a salt thereof, wherein the benzamide derivative represented by formula (I) is *N*-(1-methyl-2-oxo-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinolin-7-yl)-3-(piperidin-1-ylmethyl)-4-(2-thienyl)benzamide.

Claim 25 (Previously Presented): The compound according to claim 1 or a salt thereof, wherein the benzamide derivative represented by formula (I) is 2-{{ethyl(tetrahydro-2*H*-thiopyran-4-yl)amino]methyl}-*N*-(1-methyl-2-oxo-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinolin-7-yl)biphenyl-4-carboxamide.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): The compound according to claim 1 or a salt thereof, wherein the benzamide derivative represented by formula (I) is *N,N*-diethyl-4-[(4-{{(1-methyl-2-oxo-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinolin-7-yl)amino]carbonyl}biphenyl-2-yl)methyl]morpholine-3-carboxamide.

Claims 27-28 (Canceled):